

THE INDEPENDENT

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CHORAL SOCIETY WILL STAGE SPRING FESTIVAL

Will Present The Opera, "The Bohemian Girl" in Costumes With 14 Piece Imported Orchestra

Elizabeth City will have its first spring music festival the second week in May. The festival will be staged by the Elizabeth City Choral Society and the feature event will be a costumed presentation of the opera "The Bohemian Girl" by members of the society, with a fourteen piece orchestra.

Encouraged by the success of Friday night's concert and encouraged too by an intelligent public interest in its efforts, the society voted unanimously at a meeting Tuesday night to put on a spring music festival with an elaborate program. It will cost a little better than \$500 to stage the opera. Costumes will have to be rented and the fourteen piece orchestra necessary to the production will have to be imported, as enough local talent can not be recruited for an orchestra of that size. Public spirited men and women will guarantee the expense of the undertaking.

Music for the opera has already been ordered and the choral society will get down to work on it within the next few days.

In meantime an effort is being made to recruit the strength of the society to 150 active members. Director Frank R. Hufty thinks there are easily that many potential voices in the community.

Friday Night's Concert

The second concert of the Elizabeth City Choral Society, given at the High School Auditorium last Friday evening was greeted by a profitable and appreciative audience. The concert itself was a revelation to many who heard the society sing for the first time. Elizabeth City has musical talent and Frank R. Hufty is organizing that talent and putting it to work. The success of his efforts is now largely dependent upon the interest taken in it by the public at large. A little encouragement will go a long way toward keeping pep in the organization.

The program last Friday evening was a little too pretentious for amateurs, but their deliberate plunge into some of the heavier operatic work so early in their career speaks well for the choral society's determination to attempt big things. The quartette from "Rigoletto", sung by Mesdames Greenleaf and Duff and Messrs. Foreman and Hufty was especially well rendered. The most charming number of the concert was "A Rose Garden", sung by the Ladies Chorus.

Especially mention should be made of the work of the pianist, Mrs. Ada Burfoot Lester. Her playing of "Leoncavallo's prologue to 'Pagliacci'" revealed her as a master of the instrument and capable of truly artistic work.

The fine soprano voice of Mrs. Joe Greenleaf added much to the success of the concert. She was always a favorite with local audiences.

KINSTON WILL GET CHEAPER ELECTRICITY

But Kinston Owns Its Light & Power Plant and Elizabeth City Is Not So Fortunate

The board of aldermen of the city of Kinston, N. C. in regular session Monday night voted to restore electric light and power rates in that city to a pre-war basis, effective March 15, 1921. We are told this will mean a flat reduction of 23 1-3 per cent of present rates.

The Board of Aldermen of Kinston owns its electric light plant and knows what it costs to produce light and power for its public. Elizabeth City has a plant owned by Baltimore capitalists who make electric current to sell and not to serve the public. The gentlemen sitting at their highly polished mahogany desks in Baltimore probably do not even know what their Elizabeth City product costs them. They certainly do not know how to run the plant they have here: a fact which has been established by the kind of service rendered and by the resignations of two local superintendents who make no bones of saying that they quit their jobs because they couldn't afford to worry their lives away trying to get service out of a pile of junk.

After hiring Anderson Walker to guard his outbuildings against a recurrence of incendiary fires which burned his barn several days ago, Deputy Sheriff L. J. Farmer of Washington espied a man standing under an apple tree and suspecting more miscreants sent a load of bucks shot in that direction. The man under the tree turned out to be Walker.

TO DEVELOP OUR LEISURE TIME

Elizabeth City to Learn How To Play Under Direction of Community Service Expert

Elizabeth City is to have an expert on recreation whose business it will be to teach Elizabeth City folk how to get the most possible fun, healthful exercise, good fellowship and more useful knowledge out of their leisure hours. Everybody knows how to sleep eight hours a day and everybody knows how to work eight hours a day, after a fashion. But of the remaining eight hours of leisure time the average human being makes sorry use. Dr. Horace I. Jones, of Cornell University says the solving of this problem—how to make use of our leisure hours—wipes out every other problem confronting human society. And this time same Dr. Jones, after a week's survey of Elizabeth City, says our town with all of its natural advantages at present offers less opportunities for recreation and profitable employment of the leisure time of its people than any town he knows anything about. And so Elizabeth City is going to import a recreation expert who knows how to organize a town and teach everybody in it how to have a good time.

This move follows an invitation extended Elizabeth City to avail itself of the assistance of Community Service, Inc., which will furnish an expert to make a survey of the city's needs, map out plans and make recommendations as to the most definite program applicable to the needs of this particular community.

The invitation was accepted Monday night in the Chamber of Commerce, and by the unanimous vote of nearly a hundred citizens who were present to hear Dr. Horace I. Jones of Cornell University who was here to outline the advantages Elizabeth City might obtain from Community Service, he having undertaken the task on the invitation of L. D. Case, secretary of the Chamber of Commerce.

This city will receive free of cost, the services of an expert community service worker who is to receive nothing in return for his services except office space, a telephone and a stenographer. He will stay for three months so as to devise a sufficient program, then he will surrender the continuation of the work to the local organization. The service costs Elizabeth City nothing as the expenses are paid by Community Service Incorporated, with funds left over from the amount raised during the war for Camp Community service.

A bureau for the state at large has been established, this state being the third to make such a move. Elizabeth City will have at all times the cooperation of this state bureau. Several cities in North Carolina have already taken advantage of its service and are making plans for big things.

Dr. Jones believes that this city should most assuredly make a success of efforts in that direction, as it is the logical center of several counties. He touched upon the obvious lack of any sort of a community center here, such as gymnasiums, playgrounds, parks and libraries. He said the city would be able to function more effectively, and the children would become better pupils, with the fostering of a healthier community spirit.

Hearty speeches in favor of taking advantage of community service's invitation were made by pastors of three churches here and the superintendent of schools. Much interest was manifested by the audience and the invitation was accepted by a unanimous rising vote.

Over 2,500 farmers assembled in Raleigh this week to protest against any wholesale taxation or bond issue for the purpose of building additional roads, holding out that the state should not spend beyond its income.

Hathaway Says

If you wear glasses, have your eyes and glasses both examined from time to time, and go to the place where you can afford to pay a reasonable price for real professional work. Remember your eyes are your bread-winners. Take care of them.

You have your teeth examined twice a year. Why not your eyes? They are more important.

Dr. J. P. Hathaway
Optometrist
Phone 999 — Bradford Bldg.

Her Artistry Wins Applause



MRS. ADA BURFOOT LESTER

HER work as pianist to the Elizabeth City Choral Society has won for her the applause and commendation of all local lovers of music. She plays with the feeling and technique of a real artist. Mrs. Lester is a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. N. Burfoot, Sr. of this city. She was educated at Meredith and St. Mary's colleges, Raleigh. Her post graduate course in Music was taken at the latter school. Photo by W. H. Zoeller especially for this newspaper.

TO OPEN LIGHT & GAS CO. BOOKS

Aldermanic Committee To Look Into Cost of Electric Current and Gas

A complete overhauling of the books of the Light, Power, Water and Sewerage Company and the Gas Company of this city will be undertaken immediately by a committee of three councilmen appointed at the meeting of the Board of Aldermen Monday night. As soon as complete, the report of this committee will be presented at a called meeting of the city fathers and then there will be determined whether or not these companies shall be permitted to maintain the present rates under which they now conduct their businesses, a rate which was temporarily granted some time ago as a concession to help these utilities to meet operating costs existing at that time.

Upon notice served by the Board of Aldermen, officials of both companies were present at the meeting Monday night and expressed a willingness on their part to assist the committee in completing its work, stating that their books were open to the public which would find nothing to indicate that the present rates are not justified.

The committee appointed for the investigation of the public utilities is composed of W. A. Worth, J. R. Bowden and B. S. Sawyer.

BIG TIME AT PARKVILLE

On Friday night February 18, 1921 there will be a box supper and voting contest for the benefit of the school where the affair will be held. Ice cream will also be served.

A PLEASING ANNOUNCEMENT

The Independent Restores Former Subscription Price of \$1.50 a Year

Effective at once the subscription price of THE INDEPENDENT will be \$1.50 a year and that rate will be in effect until Sept. 1, 1921.

When the subscription price of this paper was advanced to \$2.00 a year I made the statement that the advance was necessary because of the increased cost of newsprint paper. I stated that when paper could be bought cheaper I would restore the old price of \$1.50 a year. With THE INDEPENDENT at \$2 a year I have been paying as high as 15 1-2c per lb. for newsprint. The prevailing market price to-day is 9 1-2c. But by a fortunate purchase consummated this week I have secured a car load of paper at 6 1-2c a pound. I am assured by friends close to the manufacturers that this low price will not be duplicated again.

A car load of paper will meet the requirements of this newspaper for just about six months. During that time the paper will be sold at the old price of \$1.50 a year. Those who have paid \$2 flat for this paper since Jan. 1, 1921 will have their subscriptions extended another four months, putting them on the \$1.50 basis, if they will send their receipts to this newspaper within 10 days.

PRIVATE DETECTIVES DO PUNK WORK HERE

Or It May Be That Elizabeth City Isn't as Bad as Moralists Have Painted It

THE WOMAN PRESIDENT OF THE N. C. STATE FAIR



MRS. GEO. W. VANDERBILT

MRS. GEO. W. VANDERBILT, mistress of the great Biltmore estate near Asheville, N. C., is the president of the N. C. State Fair this year. Mrs. Vanderbilt calls North Carolina her home and takes an active interest in North Carolina affairs. She addressed the North Carolina General Assembly the other day and made a decided hit with that body. She says a woman's speech, like her skirt, should be long enough to cover the subject, yet short enough to attract attention. But, being just Mrs. Vanderbilt enables this lady to attract attention, skirt or no skirt.

\$400,000 FOR CITY'S SCHOOLS

Bill is Passed in The Legislature and Election to be Called Right Away

The \$400,000 bond election to supplement our city's schools will be called for an early date, probably within a month from now. Four weeks' time must elapse to allow a new registration of all voters and give sufficient notice. The school board will meet tonight in order to conceive a definite plan on which to work.

The bill authorizing the \$400,000 bond election passed both houses of the legislature last Saturday. With the approval of the Elizabeth City voters, the children of this city will stand an equal showing among children throughout the state. The increased facilities will sufficiently accommodate the school children of the city for years to come.

The failure of a half million dollar bond issue to materialize may not handicap the plans of many who believed that that much was needed to provide adequate buildings in this city. \$400,000 will go as far six months hence, as a half million would a year ago. There is at the present time an average decrease of 30 per cent in building costs. And contracts have been let in some instances recently, for school buildings in North Carolina at 33 per cent less than the lowest bids six months ago.

S. R. SIFF CO. FIRE SALE STARTS TO-DAY

Several Thousand Dollars Worth of Merchandise Saved From Fire of January 23.

S. R. Siff Co., whose beautiful store corner of Main and Poindeux streets was gutted by fire in the early morning hours of Sunday, Jan. 23, are back in business with a Fire Sale which opens this morning. The sale is being conducted in Scott & Twiddy's old stand in the Hinton building, the Siff Co. not having yet secured a permanent location in which to continue business.

While the greater part of the stock of S. R. Siff Co. was completely destroyed, a few thousands of dollars worth of wearing apparel and furnishings was salvaged with more or less water damage. Some goods in boxes, in drawers and in show cases were saved undamaged. All of these salvaged goods are on sale at Fire Sale prices, the insurance adjusters having finished their work within the past few days.

"Do a good turn each day." Is the worthy slogan the Boy Scouts say.

It is cheaper to engage in the illicit sale of whiskey in Elizabeth City under nation wide prohibition and the Volstead Act, than it was to sell the stuff legally under local, state and federal license in the days of the open saloon. If one gets caught the fine will likely be only \$50, if the case is tried before Trial Justice Spence with P. G. Sawyer representing the defendant. Such was the outcome of two convictions in Judge Spence's court Wednesday morning after the city had spend hundreds of dollars in the hire of private detectives to work up the cases.

The men convicted were Dennis Harris and McKinley Sawyer. They were fined \$50 each on each count. There were two counts against Harris.

The evidence against the young men was furnished by a pair of private detectives from the Bradford Detective Service of Washington, D. C. One of these was an Assyrian by the name of Karl Esper. The other was a young ex-sailor by the name of J. H. Raab. The two men were employed by Mayor W. G. Gathier and City Manager J. C. Commander. They arrived in the city on February 1 and began to hang out with the drinking element. After a week's work they landed two of the smallest fish in the puddle of liquor engulfing the Matthews street district.

The detectives testified in effect that they had hobbled with the boys and made themselves at home around McKinley Sawyer's pool room in Matthews street. Raab, the ex-sailor was admittedly an amateur and the evidence showed that he drank the stuff he bought and got beastly drunk. Once the chums he was trying to double-cross had to carry him to his hotel. On one occasion he got so drunk in the hotel that he vomited all over the furniture in his room. The two detectives boarded at the Southern Hotel, rate \$4.00 a day, all paid for by the city.

Both Harris and Sawyer denied having sold the whiskey. Their defense was that they acted as agents, taking the money from detectives and getting whiskey for them. The price was \$8.00 a quart, the Matthews street price of corn liquor. One quart of the liquor was purchased last Sunday. Sawyer says he obligated to get the liquor for Esper and three others. He was in his place at the time and had to go out to get it. He said there was a Negro standing in front of his place and he took the Negro in his automobile and the Negro got the liquor for them.

While pursuing the liquor hounds, the private detectives also attempted to round up men and women engaged in immoral practices. Bruce Puckett and George Midgette, two jitney drivers, were hauled up on the detectives' evidence and fined \$25 each. Two young women, Annie White and Ada Mayo, charged with soliciting for immoral purposes were taxed with the costs of their cases and released under suspended judgements.

The cases created a sensation Wednesday morning and furnished much that was salacious for the court room spectators. But it is hardly probable that the Washington detectives put so much as a suspicion of a crimp in bad business in Elizabeth City. They scratched a few surface sores and never penetrated to the body of the undesirable traffic.

ELIZABETH CITY GETS BIG AUTO SUPPLY FIRM

Live Young Norfolklans Locate Their Third Store in The Town That Has a Real Future

Elizabeth City has a new automobile accessories house, The Motorist Supply Co., Inc., located in the Culpepper Hardware Company's old stand at 17 No. Water St., next door to the Tidewater Truck Co.

The Motorist Supply Co. is an extension of the Norfolk Motor Supply Co., of Norfolk, Va. The members of the firm are L. Lewis Smith—president and general manager; L. Douglas Smith, vice president; G. Mason Smith, secretary and treasurer. They are a live bunch of Smiths. They started in business in Norfolk about seven years ago on a borrowed capital of \$3,250. To-day they carry a stock appraised at \$80,000, at their stand corner of Granby and Queen streets. Two years ago they located a second store in Newport News, Va. Recently they decided to open a third store and looked to Portsmouth, Suffolk and Elizabeth City. Elizabeth City took their eye. They say Elizabeth City has a bigger future than any other town they know anything about.

The Motorist Supply Co. of Elizabeth City will be under the personal management of Mr. L. Lewis Smith who has already moved his family to this city and settled down to be one of us. A half page ad elsewhere in this newspaper tells what they sell and will interest every motorist in this city and vicinity.